

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03114 081602Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-04 ABF-01 PER-03

NEAE-00 A-01 NSC-05 /043 W

----- 113081

R 081425Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9470

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3114

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, CGEN, CVIS

SUBJ: BEIRUT CONSULAR STAFFING

REF: (A) STATE 073743, (B) STATE 080129, (C) BEIRUT 3016,
(D) BEIRUT 2161

1. SUMMARY

REFTEL A, OUTLINING DEPARTMENT'S PLANS FOR CONSULAR ASSIGNMENTS TO BEIRUT, OPINES THAT POST WILL BE IN FAIRLY GOOD SHAPE FOR SUMMER PERIOD. EMBASSY BEGS DIFFER. REFTEL B, INQUIRY FROM SENATOR KENNEDY, PROVIDES EXAMPLE OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE WE CAN EXPECT SHOULD VISA ISSUANCES TO LEBANESE BE DISRUPTED. OUR RESPONSE, REFTEL C, OUTLINES DIFFICULTIES WE ARE EXPERIENCING IN MEETING VISA DEMAND AND FORETELLS SIGNIFICANT BACKLOGS AS CONDITIONS HERE BECOME MORE NORMAL. OUR MAJOR DIFFICULTY IS LACK OF STAFF. REFTEL A PROVIDES INADEQUATE STAFF TO MEET DEMANDS. THIS MESSAGE RE-EMPHAZIES OUR NEEDS AND PROVIDES NEW PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF REPLACEMENTS FOR CONSULAR VACANCIES.

2. EMBASSY REALIZES EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE KEEP BEIRUT STAFF TO MINIMUM DURING ACUTE PHASES OF EMERGENCY SITUATION. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT INTENDS LEAVE AUTHORIZED CONSULAR POSITIONS VACANT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. OBVIOUSLY WE CANNOT PREDICT LEBANON'S FUTURE, BUT WE BELIEVE THERE ARE AT LEAST EVEN ODDS THAT SITUATION WILL BECOME PEACEFUL ENOUGH SO THAT BEIRUT'S CONSULAR WORKLOAD IN LATE SPRING AND SUMMER WILL AT LEAST EQUAL PREVIOUS LEVELS. WE BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT MUST

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03114 081602Z

IDENTIFY REPLACEMENTS NOW FOR ALL CONSULAR VACANCIES. TO DELAY

ASSIGNMENT PROCESS UNTIL ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD CRISIS DEVELOPS WILL BE MUCH TOO LATE TO HELP POST THIS YEAR. SHOULD TEMPORARY CONDITIONS FORCE DELAYS IN ACTUAL ARRIVAL OF NEW PERSONNEL, THEY COULD BE USED TDY ELSEWHERE UNTIL ABLE TRAVEL BEIRUT.

3. REFTEL D SUGGESTED DETAILS STAFFING TIMETABLE, ASSUMING CONTACT SUTTER REPLACEMENT, ADDING SIXTH AND SEVENTH OFFICERS BY MAY 1 AND JUNE 1 RESPECTIVELY. INSTEAD, WE HAVE BEEN DOWN TO FOUR OFFICERS SINCE MARCH 24 WITH ONLY ONE REPLACEMENT (METRINKO) FIRM, AND HE IS NOT DUE UNTIL JULY, PRESUMABLY MEANING LATE IN MONTH WHEN RUSH SEASON MORE THAN HALF OVER. WE ALSO QUESTION METRINKO'S DESIGNATION AS SUTTER'S REPLACEMENT. THIS POSITION IS FSO-6 INTENDED FOR EXPERIENCE OFFICER TO SPECIALIZE IN CITIZENSHIP/PASSPORT WORK WITH SOME SCS ACTIVITY. AS METRINKO LACKS THIS EXPERIENCE AND ARRIVES MUCH TOO LATE, WE INTEND TO PLACE HIM IN JUNIOR OFFICER POSITION (VICE PERCIVAL, OR QUOTE SEVENTH OFFICER END QUOTE OF REFERENCE D). THIS IN HIS CAREER INTERESTS AS HE WILL BE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN ALL CONSULAR FUNCTIONS.

4. WE ASSUME FSO-5 MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL A IS INTENDED AS VALERGA REPLACEMENT SINCE THIS ONLY O-5 POSITION EXPECTED TO BE VACANT. INSTEAD, POST SUGGESTS DESIGNATING THIS OFFICER AS SUTTER REPLACEMENT WITH EARLIEST POSSIBLE ETA. HE WOULD UNDERSTUDY VALERGA AND REPLACE HIM ON LATTER'S DEPARTURE, WHICH WE HOPE CAN TAKE PLACE EARLY IN SUMMER IN CONFORMITY HIS REQUEST. AT THAT TIME, A SECOND EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICER, FSO-6, SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ASSUME THE SUTTER POSITION.

5. ADDITIONALLY, WE NEED REPLACEMENT FOR QUOTE SIXTH OFFICER END QUOTE (VICE HEILMAN) FOR WHICH WE REQUESTED MAY 1 ARRIVAL (REFTEL D). ALTERNATIVELY, POST WOULD ACCEPT TDY ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICER FOR MAY 15 SEPTEMBER 15 RUSH PERIOD.

6. REFTEL D SUGGESTED AMERICAN SECRETARY REPLACEMENT ARRIVE MAY 15, OR EARLIER IF POSSIBLE. REFTEL D DESCRIBES POST'S CURRENT SERIOUS PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM LACK OF LOCAL STAFF. THIS REDOUBLES OUR NEED FOR AMERICAN SECRETARY AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03114 081602Z

REFTEL D ALSO SUGGESTED TDY ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED CONSULAR ASSISTANT, IF ANY STILL EXIST, TO HELP BAIL US OUT OF LOCAL EMPLOYEE PROBLEM.

7. SUMMARIZING, POST NEEDS FOLLOWING:

- (A) IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED FSO-5 CONSULAR OFFICER TO REPLACE SUTTER AND MOVE TO VALERGA POSITION ON LATTER'S DEPARTURE.
- (B) EXPERIENCE FSO-6 CONSULAR OFFICER TO ASSUME SUTTER POSITION

WHEN NEW INCUMBENT REPLACES VALERGA.

(C) FSO-7 OR 8 JUNIOR CONSULAR OFFICER TO ARRIVE BY MAY 1, OR
ALTERNATIVELY TDY OF EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICER FOR PERIOD
MAY 15 - SEPTEMBER 15.

(D) AMERICAN SECRETARY TO ARRIVE ASAP.

(E) EARLIEST POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF METRINKO.

(F) POSSIBLE TDY OF AMERICAN CONSULAR ASSISTANT.

8. URGE DEPARTMENT GIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION ON STAFF NEEDS,
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW GROWING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN VISA
OPERATIONS HERE. POST PLEASED TO NOTE FROM REFTTEL A THAT
DEPARTMENT HAS LIST OF VOLUNTEERS AND HOPES SUITABLE CANDIDATES
CAN BE IDENTIFIED QUICKLY.

BROWN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760133-0777
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760485/aaaacubs.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 73743, 76 STATE 80129, 76 BEIRUT 3016
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 DEC 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01 Apr 2004 by morefirh, INA>; RELEASED <20 Dec 2004 by BoyleJA>; WITHDRAWN <20 Dec 2004 by BoyleJA, INA>; RELEASED <21 DEC 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT CONSULAR STAFFING
TAGS: APER, CGEN, CVIS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006